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# Fax

|                   |                                       |                  |                            |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>To:</b>        | Nathan M. Nutter                      | <b>From:</b>     | Andrew D. Meikle           |
| <b>Fax:</b>       | <del>703-308-2443</del> 703) 872-9310 | <b>Date:</b>     | August 8, 2003             |
| <b>Phone:</b>     |                                       | <b>Pages:</b>    | 32 (including cover sheet) |
| <b>Your Ref.:</b> |                                       | <b>Our Ref.:</b> | 2809-0123P                 |
| <b>Re:</b>        | Appl. No.: 09/986,374                 | <b>CC:</b>       |                            |

☒ **Urgent**    ☒ **For Review**    ☐ **Please Comment**    ☒ **Please Reply**    ☐ **Please Recycle**

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**Comments:**



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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/986,374      | 11/08/2001  | Naoya Ichikawa       | 2809-0123P          | 5132             |

2292 7590 07/18/2003

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EXAMINER

NUTTER, NATHAN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1711

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2003

DOCKETED  
Response  
8-18-03

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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EXAMINER

ART UNIT

PAPER

13

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

Nathan M. Nutter  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 1711

Application/Control Number: 09/986,374  
Art Unit: 1711

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***Response to Amendment***

The reply filed on 23 June 2003 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because: the amendment to claims 18-21, the elected invention, places the invention into a separate grouping, i.e. Group I, which is drawn to a patentably distinct concept from that originally claimed. Since the period for reply set forth in the prior Office action has expired, this application will become abandoned unless applicant corrects the deficiency and obtains an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan M. Nutter whose telephone number is 703-308-2443. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on 703-308-2462. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan M. Nutter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nathan" being more prominent than the last name "Nutter".

Nathan M. Nutter  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1711

nmn  
July 14, 2003